APPENDIX 6.

Dixie Subwatershed Agricultural TMDL Implementation Plan

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1.0 Executive Summary

Subwatershed: Dixie Drain Subwatershed
Total Scope: 39,639 acres
Agricultural Scope: 28,263 acres
Agricultural Critical Acres Scope: 23,487 acres

Location: South side of the Boise River, located in between the cities of Wilder and Caldwell in Canyon County

Priority Subwatershed: High

Cooperating Agricultural Agencies: Canyon Soil Conservation District (CSCD)
Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
Idaho Soil Conservation Commission (ISCC)

Agricultural Land Uses:

Dixie Agricultural Land Uses

Landuse	Acres	Percent of Dixie Subwatershed
Sprinkler Irrigated Cropland, Pasture, Orchard and Vineyard	3,692	9%
Surface Irrigated Cropland & Orchard	17,930	45%
Surface Irrigated Pasture	4,829	12%
Non-Irrigated Pasture	1,084	3%
CAFO/AFO	728	2%
TOTAL	**28,263**	**71%**

Major Agricultural Products: Seed corn, alfalfa and clover for seed and/or hay, beans, sugar beets, winter and spring wheat, sweet and field corn, barley, potatoes, onions, hops, specialty seed crops, vegetables, livestock, and dairy products.

TMDL Objectives: The Idaho Soil Conservation Commission (ISCC) has prepared this plan to implement the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for the Lower Boise River. The overall objective of the TMDL is to achieve water quality that will support appropriate designated uses for the river. The TMDL establishes instream targets for total suspended solids (TSS) and bacteria and sets goals for reducing the loads of sediment and bacteria from the tributaries to the Lower Boise River in order to achieve the instream targets The instream targets are to be attained within the river near the cities of Middleton and Parma. The purpose of the instream TSS targets is to protect fish species that may be adversely impacted by instream TSS levels that exceed the concentration and duration components of the targets. The purpose of the bacteria target is to protect human health.

The TSS instream concentration is 50 mg/L for no more than 60 days, and 80 mg/L for no more than 14 days. To attain these durational instream concentration targets, the TMDL sets a sediment reduction goal of 37% at the mouth of the Dixie Drain .The bacteria target requires a maximum geometric mean no greater than 50 CFU/100 mL based on a minimum of five samples taken over a thirty-day period (IDAPA 16.10.02.250.01.a). To attain this target, the TMDL seeks to reduce bacteria colonies in the river by 76% at Middleton and 93% at Parma, and calls for bacteria reduction goals for the tributaries ranging from 92% to 98%.

The TMDL does not establish nutrient targets for the Lower Boise River or nutrient reduction goals for the tributaries because there is no nutrient-caused impairment (i.e. excessive aquatic plant or algae growth) in the Lower Boise River. It is expected, however, that the TMDL for the Hells Canyon reach of the Snake River (RM 409 to RM 288 “SR-HC TMDL”) will establish nutrient-reduction goals for the Boise River and other tributaries and upstream sources to the SR-HC TMDL reach. In anticipation of a nutrient-reduction goal for the Boise River, the Lower Boise TMDL calls for no net increase (NNI) of current TP loads to the Lower Boise River.

Implementation Plan: This Implementation Plan identifies best management practices (BMPs) and prioritizes agricultural lands in Dixie Drain Subwatershed for BMP implementation to achieve the TMDL's objectives within the Lower Boise River watershed. Proposed BMPs include, but are not limited to, sprinkler irrigation systems, surge irrigation systems, drip irrigation systems, sediment basins, filter strips, Polyacrylamide (PAM) application, irrigation water management*****, pest management, nutrient management, conservation tillage, and livestock grazing management.

Three BMP installation alternatives are evaluated for each of the five different agricultural land use types (Treatment Units) within the Dixie Subwatershed. Estimated costs to install BMPs on lands identified for treatment are Alternative 1 **-**$18,067,050; Alternative 2 **-** $11,740,150; and Alternative 3 **-** $6,464,750. These cost estimates doe not include costs of acquiring necessary real property interests and permits, or annual operation and maintenance costs.

2.0 Introduction

The Dixie Subwatershed encompasses 39,639 acres located within the Lower Boise River Watershed. Dixie Drain (as it is commonly referred to) originates at the base of Lake Lowell, an agricultural reservoir. It flows northwest toward the Boise River. There are two cities within the Dixie subwatershed boundary. The largest city is Caldwell, with a population of 30,000. One third of Caldwell lies within Dixie subwatershed. The other town within Dixie is Greenleaf with a population of about 700 people. Greenleaf lies entirely within Dixie subwatershed.

This implementation plan will address the nonpoint, agricultural sources of sediment, nutrients, and bacteria that impact the Lower Boise River from Dixie. Within this plan the following elements are identified: pollutant problems within Dixie, sources of those pollutants, critical acres contributing pollutants to the drain, priority areas for treatment, and Best Management Practices (BMPs) that, when applied, will have the greatest effect on water quality.

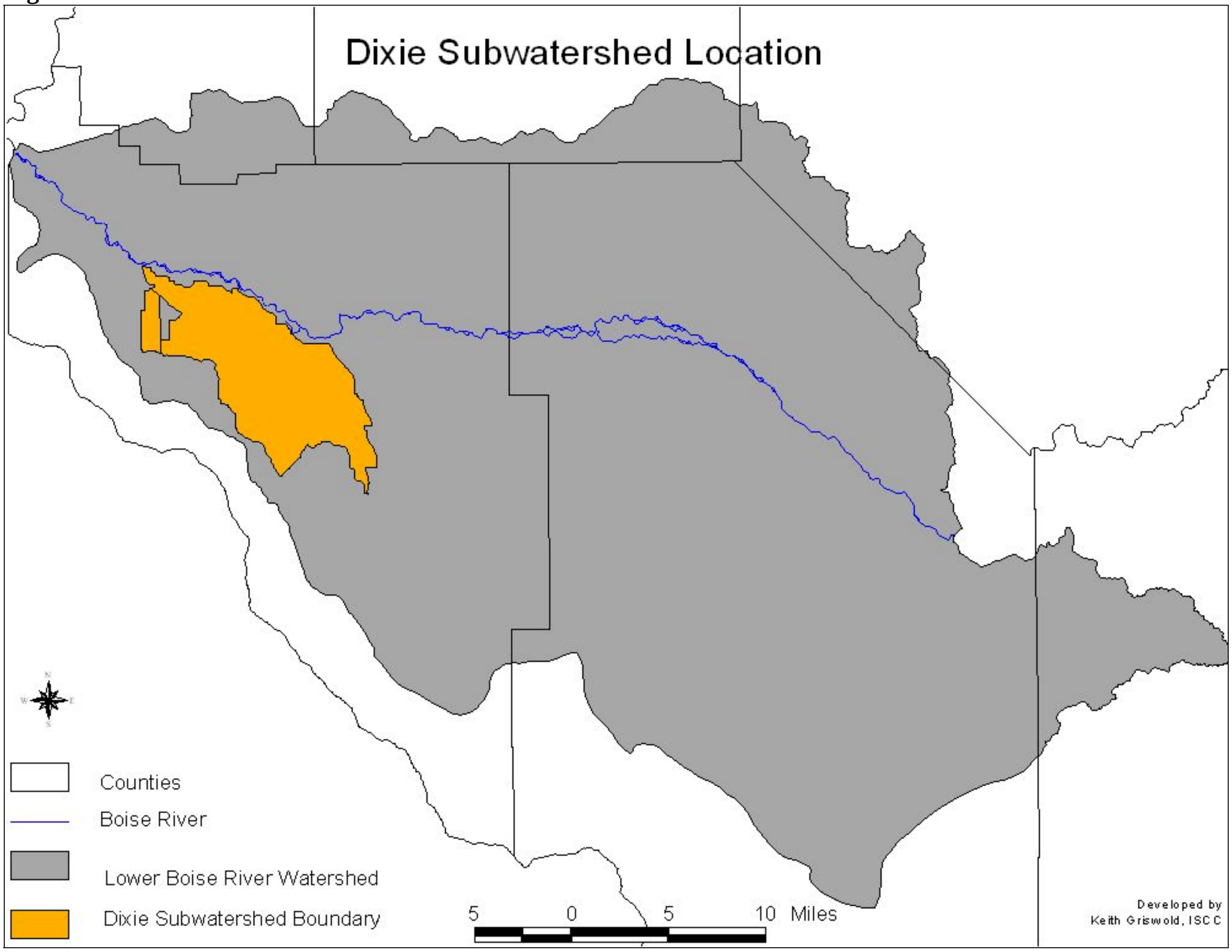
Efforts to gather additional bacteria, sediment, and nutrient data are either underway or planned. Information developed through these efforts may be used to revise the appropriate portions of the Implementation Plan, and determine and adjust appropriate implementation methods and control measures.

The costs to install BMPs on agricultural lands are estimated in this plan to provide the local community, government agencies, and watershed stakeholders some perspective on the economic demands of meeting the TMDL goals. Availability of cost-share funds to agricultural producers within the Dixie subwatershed will be necessary for the success of this plan and the final reduction of pollutants necessary to meet the TMDL requirements at the mouth of Dixie. Sources of available funding and technical assistance for the installation of BMPs on private agricultural land are outlined in Appendix 2 of the Lower Boise River Agricultural Implementation Plan.

It is recommended that landowners within Dixie Subwatershed contact the Canyon Soil Conservation District (Canyon SCD), the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), or the Idaho Soil Conservation Commission (ISCC) to help determine the need to address water quality and other natural resource concerns on their land. This plan is not intended to identify which specific BMPs are appropriate for specific properties, but rather provides a subwatershed approach for addressing water quality problems attributed to runoff from agricultural lands.

*** Irrigation Water Management (IWM) involves providing the correct amount of water at the right times to optimize crop yield, while at the same time protecting the environment from excess surface runoff and deep percolation. Irrigation water management includes techniques to manage irrigation system hardware for peak uniformity and efficiency as well as irrigation scheduling and soil moisture monitoring methods.**

Figure 1. **Dixie Subwatershed Location**



3.0 Watershed Characterization

This section describes watershed characteristics that affect the types, locations, and effectiveness of BMPs proposed in this implementation. These characteristics include soils, climate, surface hydrology, demographics and economics, ground water hydrology, and land ownership and land use in Dixie Subwatershed.

3.1 Soils

There are three major soil associations within Dixie subwatershed (U. S. Department of the Agriculture, 1972).

- Moulton-Bram-Baldock association: Somewhat poorly drained and moderately well drained fine sandy loams to silt loams on lowlands. Most soils in this association are underlain by gravel and sand at a depth of less than 4 feet.
- Power-Purdam association: Well drained silt loams and loams on high river terraces. They are underlain by sandy, loamy or gravelly material at a depth of 2 to 6 feet. The Purdam soils have a hardpan below the subsoil.
- Greenleaf-Nyssaton-Garbutt association: Well drained silt loams on lake terraces and alluvial fans. The soils in this association formed in alluvium or deep lacustrine deposits of silt loam-to-loam material.

Due to the arid and temperate climate, soils generally have weakly developed profiles, are unleached, are alkaline and have a high natural fertility.

3.2 Climate

Climate in this area is characterized by cool, moist winters and hot, dry summers. The average daily maximum temperature in July for Caldwell, Idaho is 92 degrees Fahrenheit, while the average daily minimum temperature in January is 20 degrees Fahrenheit. Temperatures as low as -46 degrees Fahrenheit and as warm as 112 degrees Fahrenheit have been recorded.

Long term average annual precipitation for Caldwell is 10.48 inches and for Deer Flat Refuge on Lake Lowell is 9.17 inches. Approximately 57 percent of the yearly precipitation occurs during the November through March period. Average precipitation during the April to September growing season is less than 4 inches in the valley. Extended periods of no rain can occur frequently during the growing season.

The average consecutive frost-free period (above 32 degrees) is 143 days, based on the Caldwell long-term climatic data station. A probability analysis of the data shows 8 years in 10 will have a frost-free season of at least 125 days for this area. The average last frost (32 degrees) in the spring is around May 6 and the average first frost (32 degrees) in the fall is around September 27 (U. S. Department of the Agriculture, 1972).

3.3 Surface Hydrology

The Dixie Subwatershed ranges in elevation from approximately 2,500 feet at the base of Lake Lowell to 2,250 feet at the Boise River.

Pre-existing ephemeral channels have been modified over time by channelization, bank stabilization, and the development of the existed in the watershed prior to the construction of irrigation and drainage systems for water delivery and drainage for croplands and pastures. There are currently 11 major canals that supply water to cropland in Dixie Subwatershed and 11 major drains that receive tailwater from the croplands and pastures or drain ground water (Table 2). Agricultural wells supply water to the upper portions of the subwatershed.

Phyllis Canal was one of the earliest canals constructed in Dixie Subwatershed. It was completed in 1891with its diversion just across the Boise River from the town of Eagle, in Ada County. The Phyllis canal flows a total length of 35 miles to Dixie Subwatershed before converging with the Renshaw Canal just south of Greenleaf. Lake Lowell was authorized March 27, 1905 and funded through the 1902 Reclamation Act for agricultural water supply (Bureau of Reclamation 1996). Lake Lowell construction finished in 1909. Three canals flow from Lake Lowell to supply water to Dixie Subwatershed.

Table 1. Surface Waterbodies in Dixie Subwatershed

Canal or Lateral	Drain, Slough or Gulch
Eureka Canal	North Drain
Phyllis Canal	South Drain
Deer Flat North Canal	Dixie Slough
Deer Flat Low Line Canal	West End Drain
Renshaw Canal	Dixie Drain
Burris Lateral	Lower Embankment Drain
Forest Canal	Benson Drain
Caldwell canal	Guess Drain
Drew Canal	Benson Gulch
Soper Canal	Dickens Drain
Golden Gate Canal	Pipe Gulch

Figure 2. Surface Hydrology

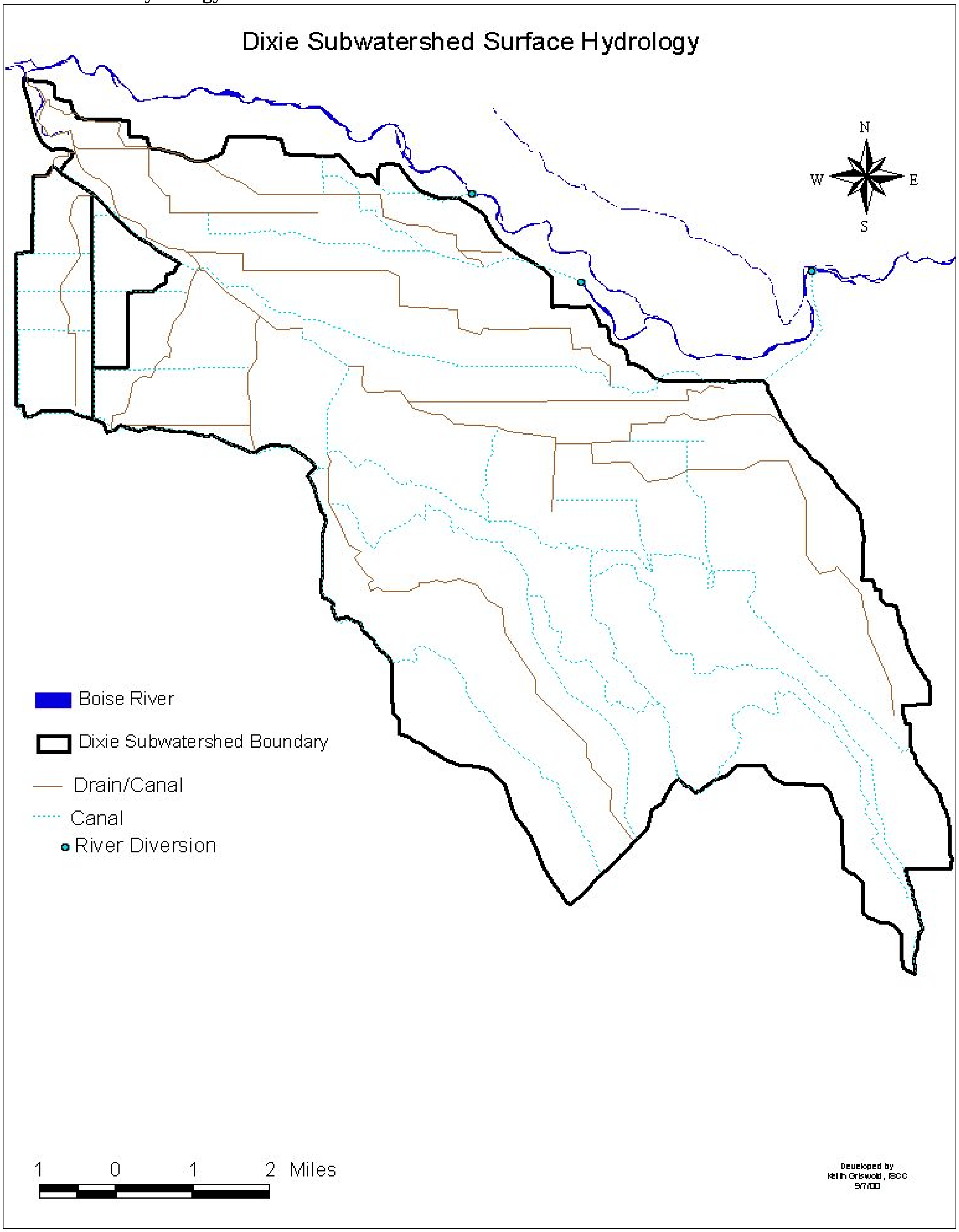
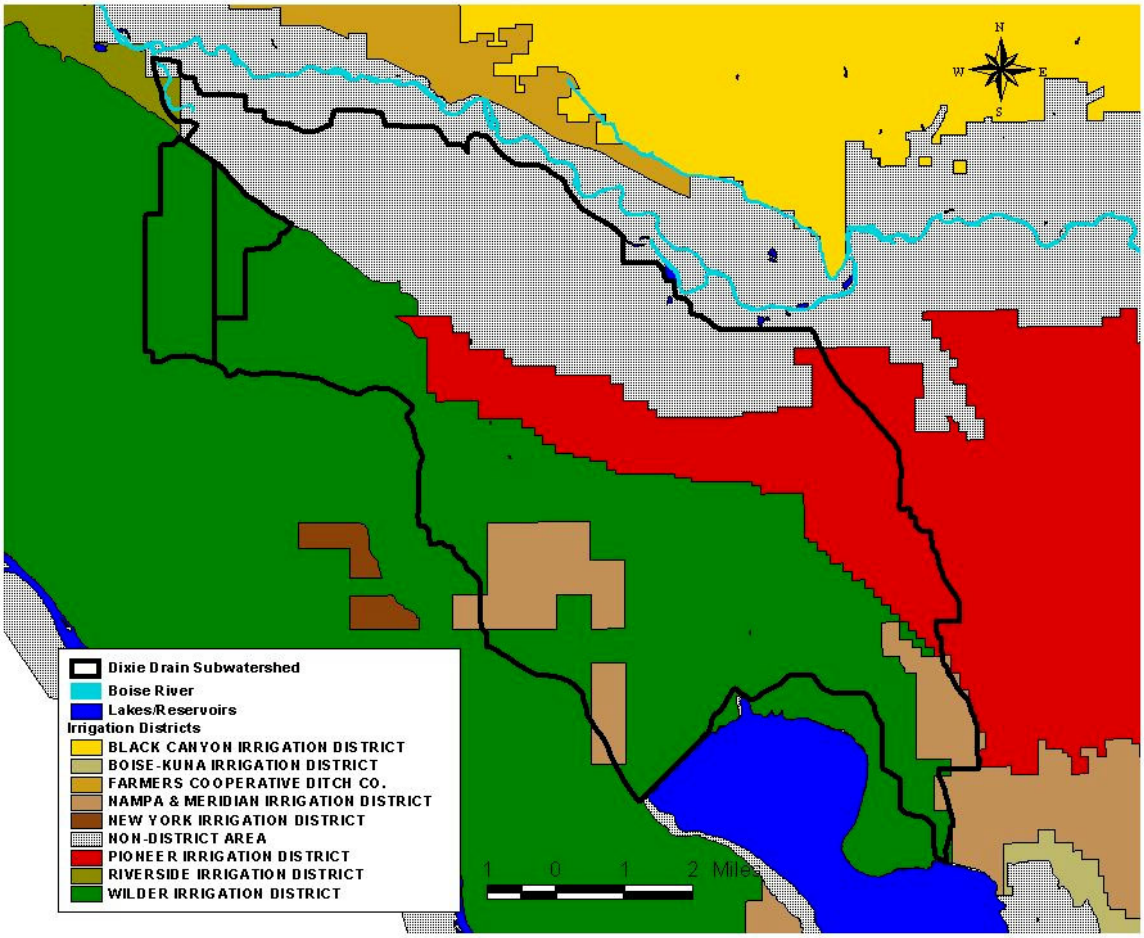


Figure 3. Irrigation Districts



3.4 Ground Water Hydrology

A large, shallow, aquifer (< 200 feet) is recharged annually by seepage from surface irrigation and conveyance of water through earthen canals.

Two deep aquifers exist under Dixie Subwatershed. The Boise Valley deep aquifer underlies most of the subwatershed, while the Mountain Home Plateau deep aquifer exists only under a small portion near the southwestern boundary.

3.5 Demographics and Economics

Demographic and Economic section is for all of Canyon County.

- Canyon County population increased over 14% from 1990 to 1996.
- Population of Canyon County increased from 90,076 in 1990 to 116,675 in 1997.
- Agricultural lands around Caldwell are being developed for residential housing and subdivisions are increasingly being constructed south of Caldwell toward Lake Lowell and to the west past Farmway Rd.
- Types of irrigated crops include, but are not limited to: seed corn, alfalfa and clover for seed and hay, beans, sugar beets, winter and spring wheat, sweet and field corn, barley, potatoes, onions, hops, specialty seed crops and vegetables.

Table 2. 1997 Agricultural Data for Dixie Subwatershed

Inventory: Farms & Cropland	Dixie Subwatershed
Total # of Farms	466
Total Acres of Farms	28,263
Average Farm Size (acres)	60.7
Total Acres in Crops	27,535

(Griswold, 2000)

3.6 Land Ownership and Land Use

The items listed below are highlights of the Land Ownership and Land Use section in the Lower Boise River Implementation Plan.

- Dixie Subwatershed is 98% privately owned (Figure 7).
- Irrigated crops and pasture are the largest agricultural use. Orchards and vineyards are located in the upper portion of the subwatershed.

Figure 4. Dixie Subwatershed K Factor Classes

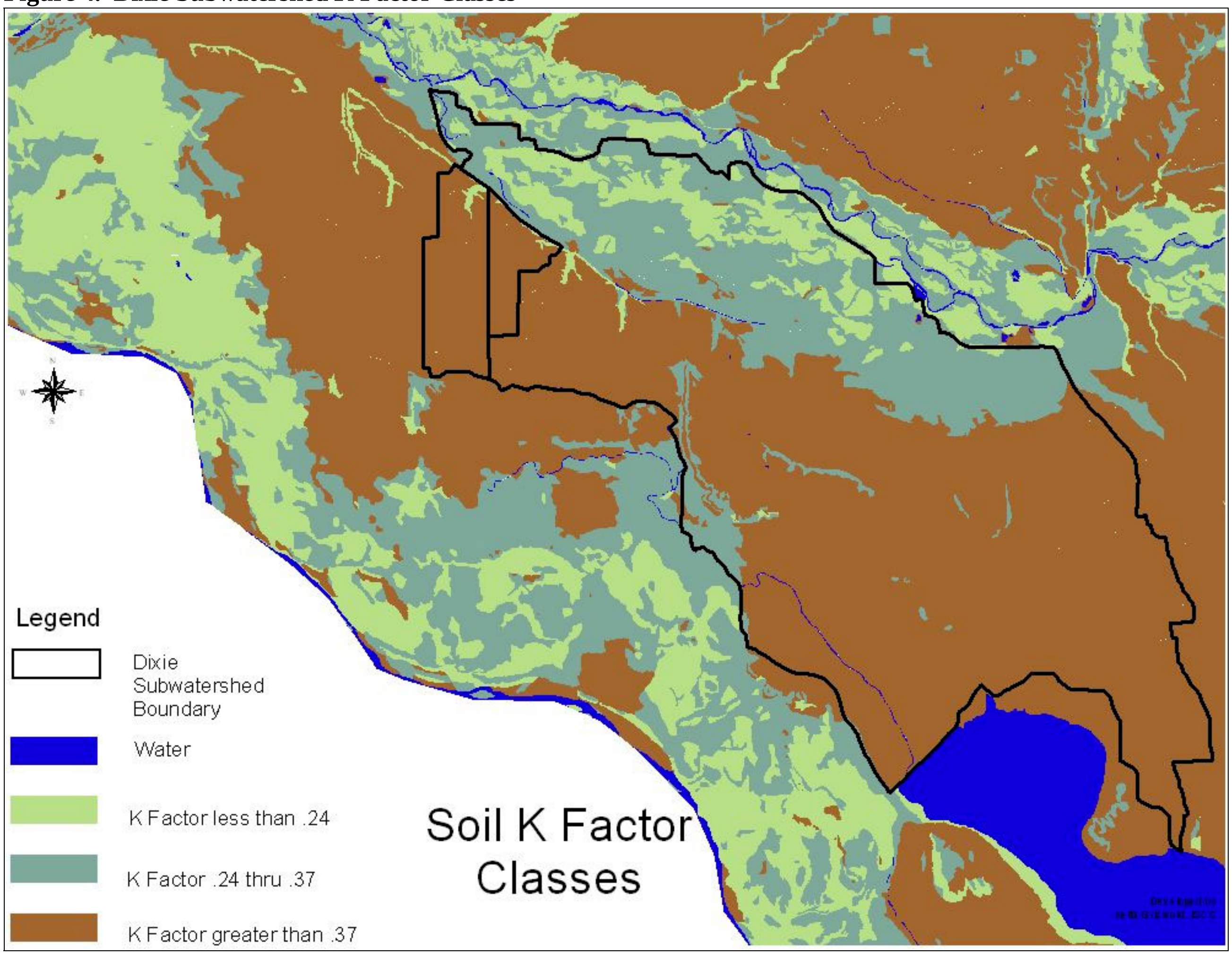


Figure 5. Dixie Subwatershed Slope Classes

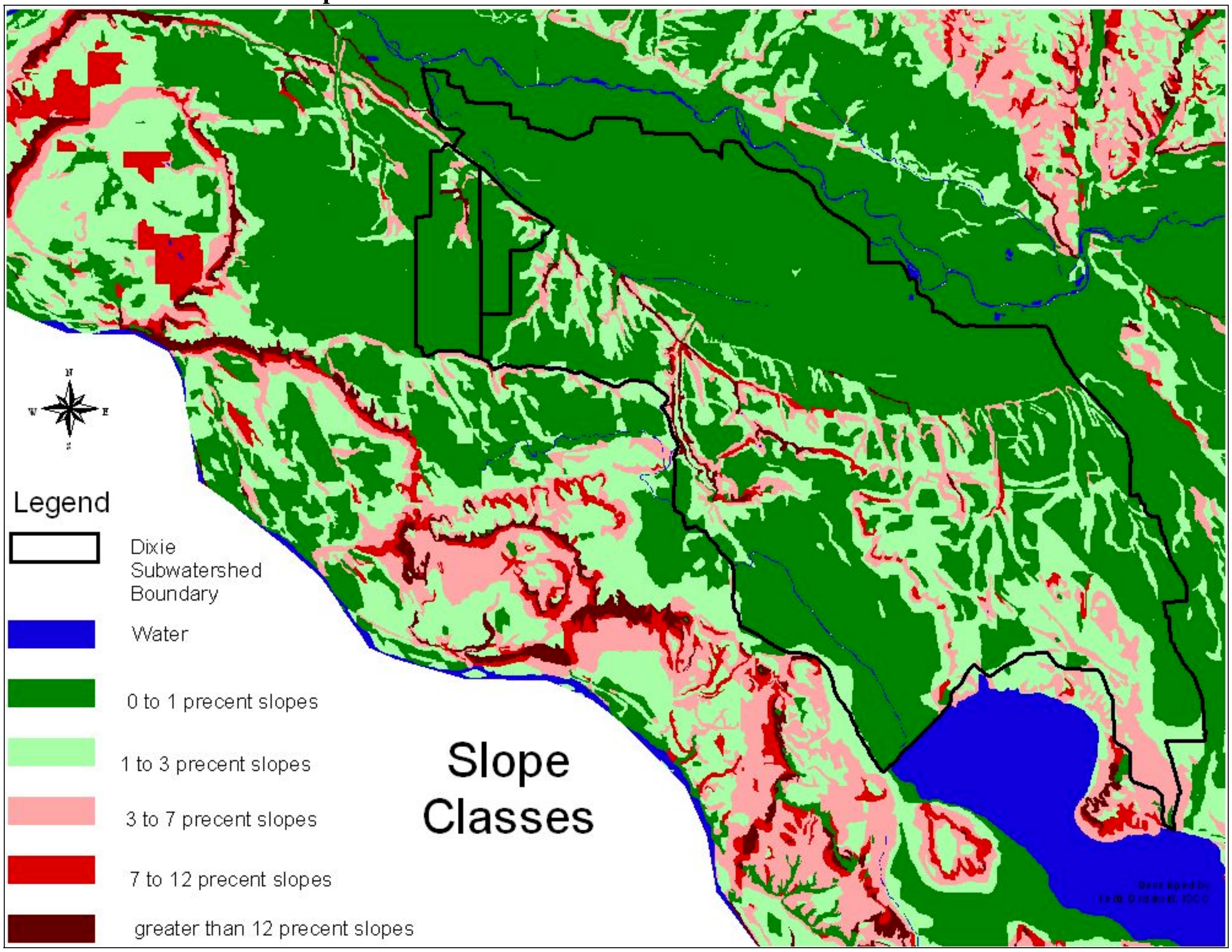
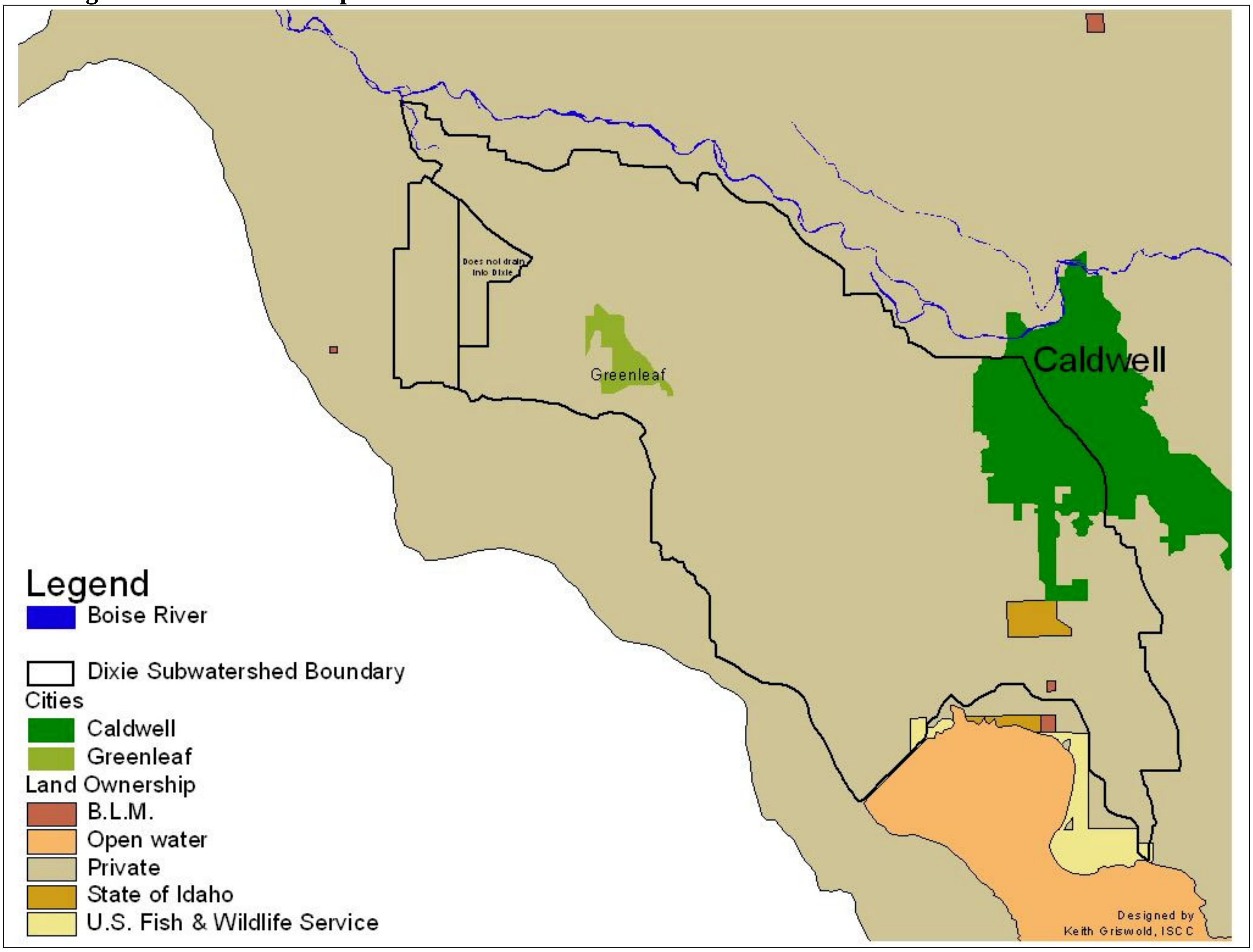


Figure 6. Land Ownership



4.0 Treatment Units

This section presents information on the individual agricultural land uses within the watershed. Each land use is divided into one or more Treatment Units (TUs) (Figure 9). The TUs describe areas with similar use, management, soils, productivity, resource concerns, and treatment needs. The TUs not only provide a method for delineating and describing land use but are also used in evaluating land use impacts to water quality and in the formulation of alternatives for solving the identified problems.

The descriptions in this section are intended to provide a general overview of the TUs.

- Treatment Unit #1 – Sprinkler Irrigated Cropland, Pasture, Orchard and Vineyard, 3,692 acres

  This unit occurs throughout the subwatershed. Typical cropping sequence is alfalfa hay, row crops and grain. Row crops include potatoes, sugar beets, mint, and corn. This area has little or no impact on Lower Boise River water quality because of the insignificant amount of runoff resulting from high irrigation efficiencies.

- Treatment Unit #2 – Surface Irrigated Cropland & Orchard, 17,930 acres

  This unit occurs mostly south of Riverside Canal. Surface irrigation occurs on silt loam and loam soils on slopes from 0-12%, with the majority of the cropland less than 3% slope. Typical cropping sequence is alfalfa seed or hay, row crops, and grain. Row crops include potatoes, sugar beets, beans, onions, and corn. Most of the wastewater enters an extensive system of low gradient excavated drain ditches or canals.

- Treatment Unit #3 – Surface Irrigated Pasture 4,829 acres

  This unit occurs mostly north of Riverside Canal. Surface irrigated pastures are characterized by silt loam soils with slopes ranging from 0-12% with the majority of pastures less than 3% slope. Pastures are typically grazed throughout much of the season (Spring-Fall) with little re-growth allowed in the Fall. Some pastures are used for feeding areas for large herds of livestock during the winter. Wastewater runoff from the surface irrigated pastures enters the Lower Boise River via Dixie Drain.

- Treatment Unit #4 – Non-Irrigated Pasture 1,084 acres

  Riparian areas are associated mainly with Dixie Drain, Pipe Gulch, Dixie Gulch, Guess Gulch, West End Drain, and Christian Gulch. Typical vegetative growth is Cattail, Russian olive, Reed Canary Grass, and invasive plant species. Bank erosion and direct bacterial impacts occur when livestock enter the creeks for water and shade.

- Treatment Unit #5-- CAFO/AFO 728 acres

  Feedlots are small and generally occupied by cattle during the winter and spring months (November through April), with most located on farmsteads. See Table 6. Dairies and feedlots are under regulations or strict recommendations to eliminate runoff up to a 25 year, 24 hour storm events as well as average 5-year runoff rates from the feeding and milking facilities. Where animal wastes are applied to croplands, existing State and NRCS standards are required for dairy operators.

  As required by Idaho State Law, all producing and selling dairy facilities have submitted a Nutrient Management Plan submitted to Idaho Department of Agriculture.

Table 3. Acres of TUs within Dixie Subwatershed.

Treatment Units	Acres
Treatment Unit 1	3,692
Treatment Unit 2	17,930
Treatment Unit 3	4,829
Treatment Unit 4	1,084
Treatment Unit 5	728
TOTAL	28,263

(Griswold, 2000)

Figure 7. Treatment Units

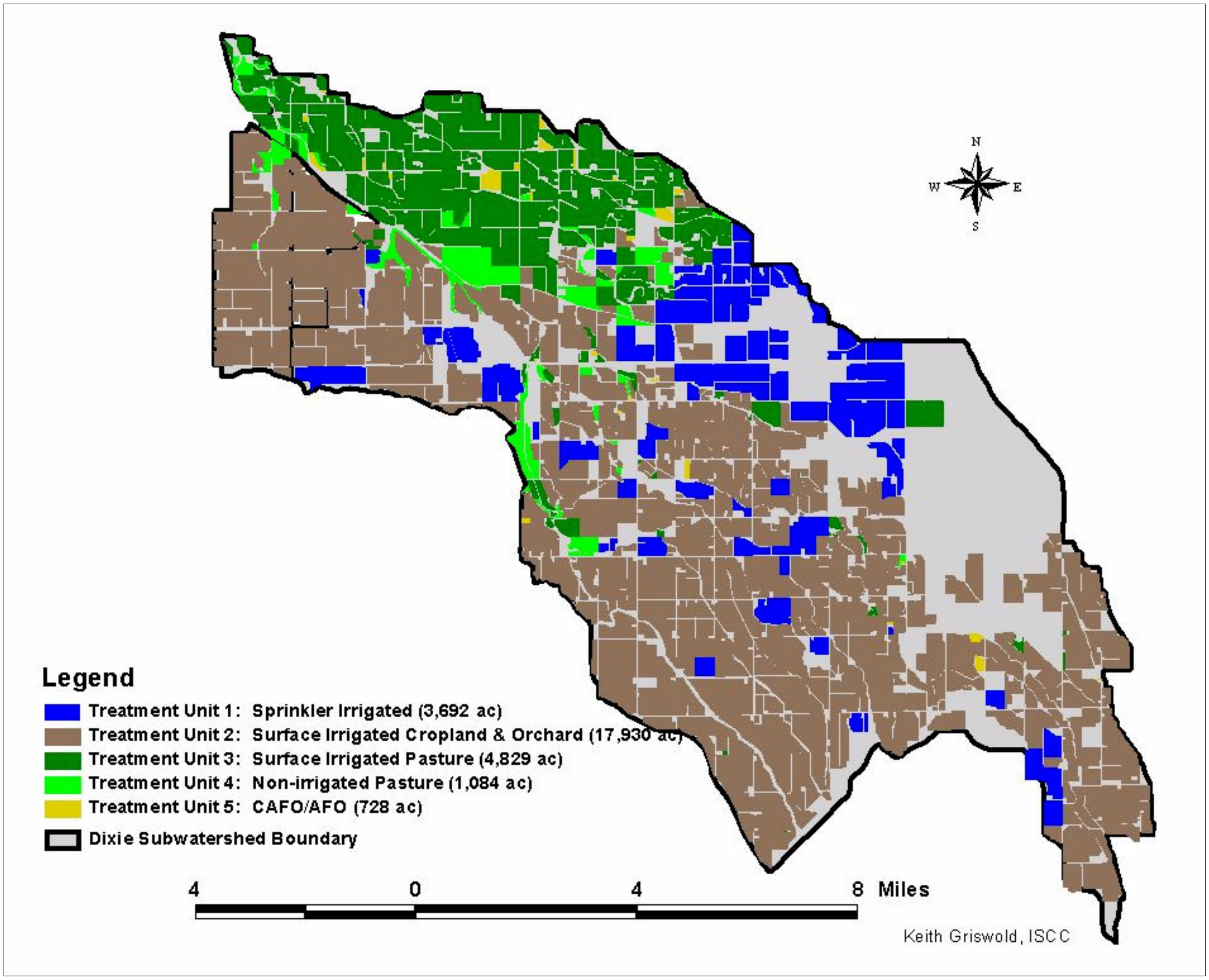
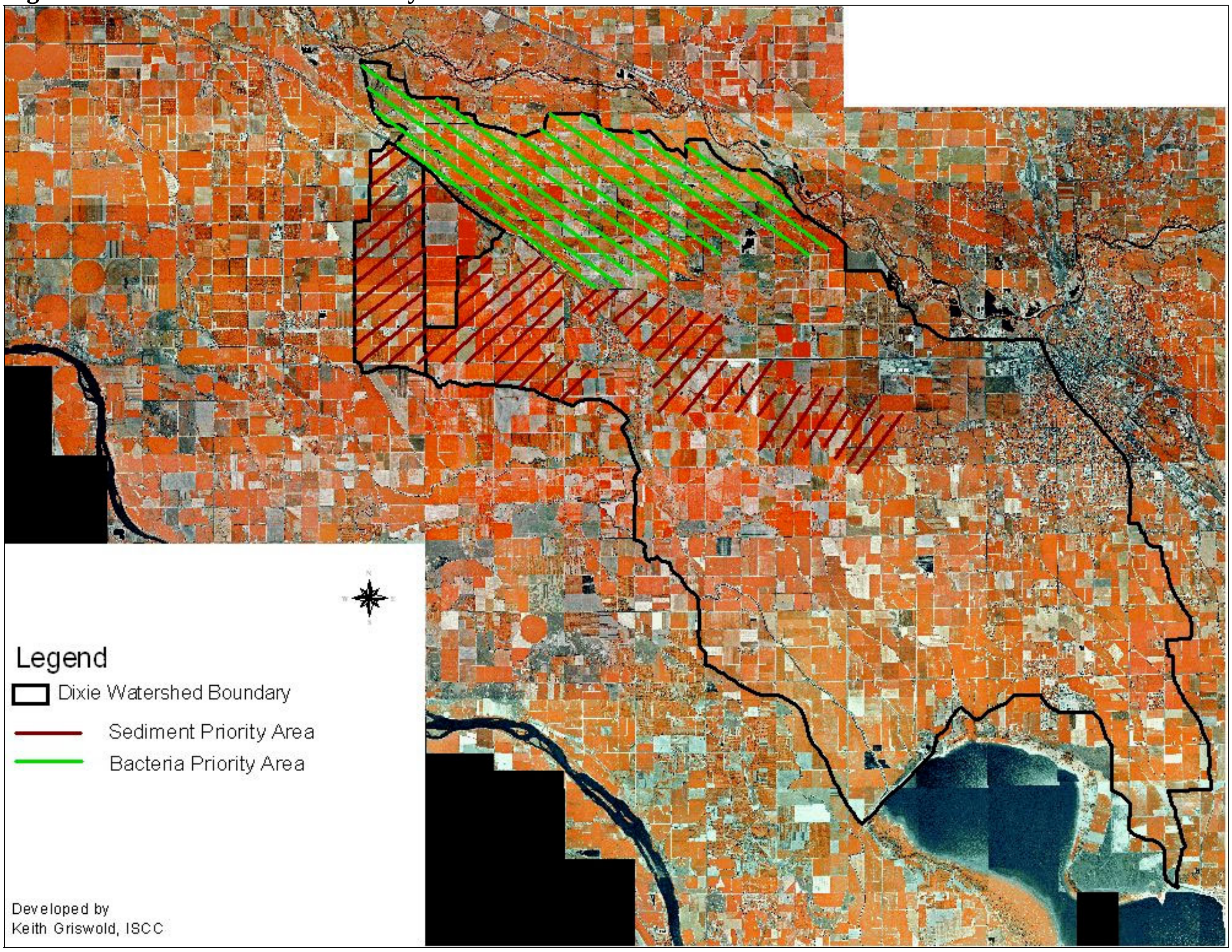


Figure 8. Dixie Subwatershed Priority Areas



5.0 TMDL Objectives

The overall objective of the TMDL is to achieve water quality that will support appropriate designated uses for the Lower Boise River. To support aquatic life and recreational uses, the TMDL seeks to meet state bacteria criteria and a Total Suspended Sediment (TSS) target in the Boise River by establishing "load" reduction goals for several drains or tributaries to the Lower Boise River, including Dixie Drain.

The TMDL recognizes that the targets and load reductions may be revised as additional data is collected, as understanding of water quality in the river improves, and as state water quality standards change. After the TMDL targets and load reductions were established for sediment and bacteria, additional, more frequent sediment data have been collected, the State of Idaho's bacteria criteria has changed, and a DNA analysis of bacteria to determine bacteria sources has been performed. This new information and water quality standards change indicate that revision of the TMDL sediment and bacteria targets is appropriate, and will continue to be evaluated with additional data as it is collected.

While there is no nutrient-caused impairment of the Lower Boise River, IDEQ expects to require nutrient load reductions in the Lower Boise River watershed to reduce algae production in the Snake River as part of the Snake River – Hells Canyon (SR-HC) TMDL. The SR-HC TMDL is due to be submitted to EPA at the end of 2001. After EPA approval, IDEQ will expect the Lower Boise River Watershed Advisory Group (WAG) to identify actions necessary to meet the new load reduction targets at the mouth of the Lower Boise River. Until then, this implementation plan will be based on IDEQ's "No Net Increase" in nutrient policy for the Lower Boise River.

Agricultural sources of sediment, bacteria and nutrients include surface irrigated cropland and pastures, animal feedlots, livestock grazing waterways and ditch maintenance**.** BMPs can be implemented to address the following:

- Irrigation induced erosion.
- Lack of adequate vegetation adjacent to waterways necessary for removing sediment, nutrients, and pathogens from runoff.
- Animal feedlots in and adjacent to waterways delivering excess sediment, nutrients, and bacteria.

5.1 Recreational Uses – Bacteria Objectives

The TMDL establishes a 98% bacteria reduction objective for the Dixie Drain to meet Idaho's fecal coliform criteria for protection of recreational uses (Table 4).

Table 4. Reductions Required to Meet Bacteria Load Allocation

Name	Primary Geo-Mean CFU/100 ml	Primary Load Allocation CFU/100 ml geometric mean	Primary Percent Reduction	Secondary Geo-Mean CFU/100 ml	Secondary Load Allocation CFU/100 ml geometric mean	Secondary Percent Reduction
Dixie Drain	**2987**	**50**	**98**	**1156**	**200**	**83**

(Portion of Table 22 from, page 71 Lower Boise River TMDL Subbasin Assessment)

Two developments affect this reduction objective and agricultural BMP implementation required to meet it. Idaho's bacteria criteria was changed from fecal coliform to E. Coli (Escherichia coli). Data show that Lower Boise E. Coli levels do not exceed the new criteria. In addition, DNA analysis of bacteria samples from various locations in the Lower Boise River watershed show that natural sources of bacteria (e.g. birds, ducks, geese, deer, rodents, raccoon) that are beyond human control prevent attainment of the TMDL's bacteria targets and load reductions. It is likely that inputs of bacteria from cows can be significantly reduced by simply reducing their access to the Boise River and tributary water sources.

Table 5. Description of Confined Animal Feeding Operations in Dixie Subwatershed

Type of Confined Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO)	Number of CAFO's in Dixie Drain Subwatershed
Dairy Cattle	3
Beef Cattle	23
Sheep	1
Horse	3
Research (Elk, Bison & Rocky Mtn Bighorn Sheep)	1
	31

(Griswold, 2000)

5.2 Aquatic Life Uses – Sediment Objectives

The approach is to seek voluntary implementation of best management practices (BMPs) on agricultural lands to reduce Total Suspended Sediment loading rate by 37%.

Table 6. 1995 TSS loads and allocations for Dixie Drain

Tributary	1995 Loads	% of Total River Load	TSS Load Goals	% of Total Goal
Dixie Drain	41.1	26%	25.9	17%

(IDEQ, 1998)

5.3 Aquatic Life Uses – Phosphorus Objectives

As per the *Lower Boise River TMDL Subbasin Assessment*, total phosphorus is subject to a No Net Increase (NNI) temporary recommendation until IDEQ establishes its SR-HC phosphorus TMDL.

Table 7. Proposed No Net Increase (NNI) Phosphorous Load

Tributary Name	Seasonal Average TP Load, lbs/day	Seasonal Total Load, lbs
Dixie Drain	**444**	**81672**

(IDEQ, 1998)

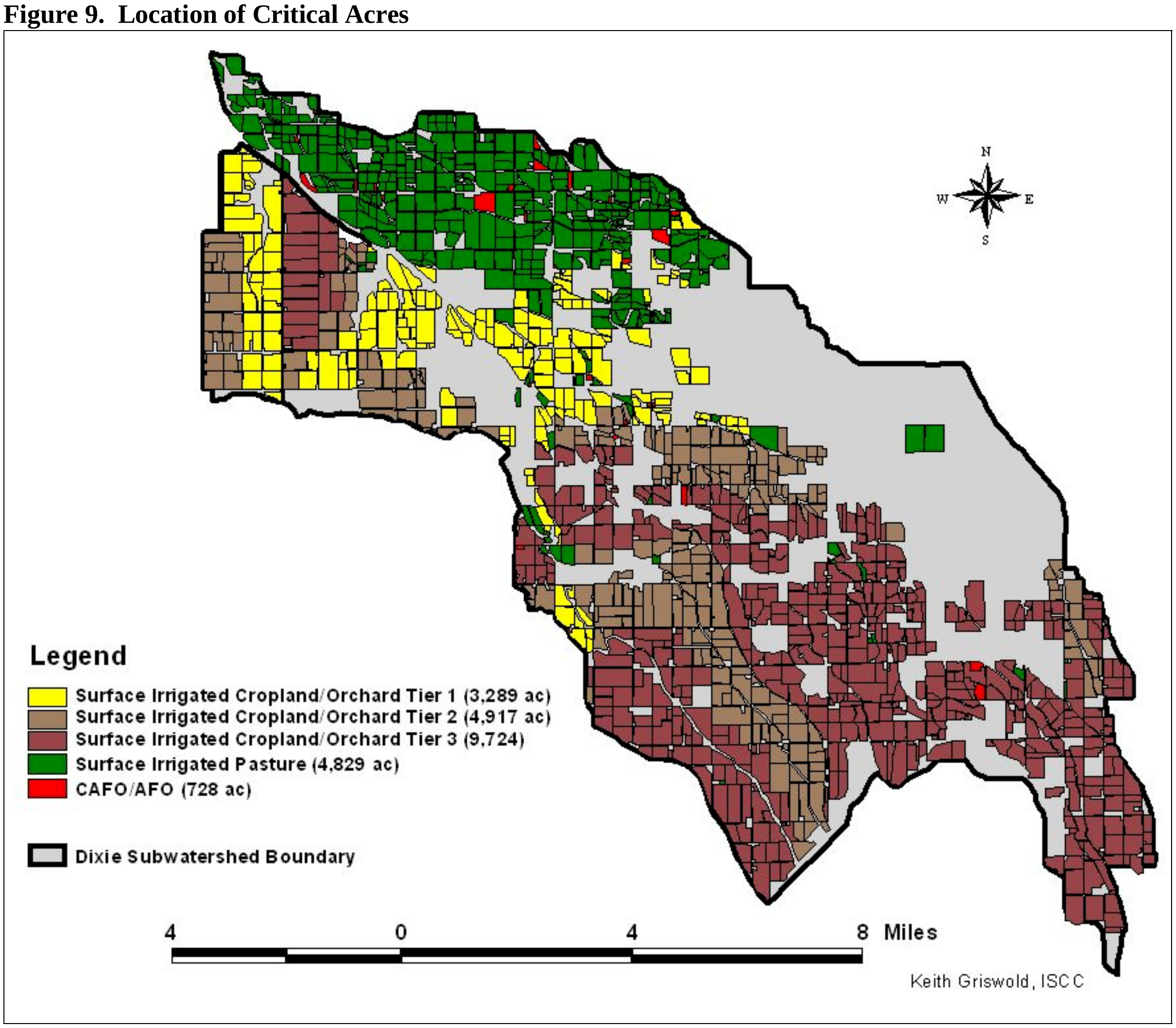
6.0 Identification of Critical Acres

An initial watershed inventory was completed to determine the land areas that affect Dixie Drain. Aerial photos, topographic maps and field investigations were all utilized to determine the land areas that impact the water quality of Dixie Drain, which affects the Lower Boise River.

Drainage ditches, irrigation supply canals, topography transitions, and roads determine the route of the irrigation wastewater and natural drainage. Irrigation wastewater flows can be intercepted by the canals, drains or reused by neighboring farms, then in turn be reused or intercepted by other drains or canals.

Land treatment though BMP installation will be pursued in three tiers. Agricultural lands that drain directly into Dixie Drain will be a Tier 1, high priority for treatment because these lands have the most immediate impact on Lower Boise River water quality. Drainage water from Tier 2 lands is reused once on Tier 1 lands before discharging to the Dixie Drain, and is given a medium priority for treatment. Tier 1 & 2 acres are the Critical Acres within Treatment Unit 2. Drainage water from Tier 3 lands is reused multiple times on Tier 1 and Tier 2 lands before discharging to the Dixie Drain, and are given a low priority for treatment.

Figure 9. Location of Critical Acres



Critical Acres within each Treatment Unit:

Treatment Unit 1	No critical acres within this unit.
Treatment Unit 2	3,289 acres of Tier 1 surface irrigated cropland 4,917 acres of Tier 2 surface irrigated cropland 9,724 acres of Tier 3 surface irrigated cropland
Treatment Unit 3	4,829 acres of surface irrigated pasture
Treatment Unit 4	No critical acres within this unit
Treatment Unit 5	31 units (728 acres) of CAFO/AFO

7.0 Implementation Plan BMPs

Agricultural conservation and soil erosion practices are typically referred to as Best Management Practices (BMPs). These practices are nationally derived systems to control, reduce, or prevent soil erosion and sedimentation on agricultural landuses (APAP, 1991). BMPs are selected to reduce irrigation-induced and streambank erosion, contain and filter sediment, nutrients, and bacteria from irrigation wastewater, contain and properly dispose of animal wastes, and reduce leaching of nutrients and pesticides. This will improve the quality of surface waters in the project area and reduce pollutant loading to the Lower Boise River. The status of the beneficial uses for these waters will be maintained or improved with the implementation of this alternative.

BMPs include, but are not limited, to the following:

Table 8. Treatment Unit 2---Surface Irrigated Cropland

Agro-Tillage	Conservation Cropping Sequence
Conservation Tillage	Cover and Green Manure Crop
Filter Strips	Grassed Waterway
Surge Irrigation System	Sprinkler Irrigation System
Tailwater Recovery System	Irrigation Water Management Systems
Straw Mulching	Nutrient Management
Pest Management	Sediment Basin
Underground Outlet	Chiseling and Subsoiling
Waste Utilization	Channel Vegetation
Drip Irrigation System	PAM
Irrigation Water Conveyance	

Table 9. Treatment Unit 3---Surface Irrigated Pasture

Fencing	Stream channel stabilization
Heavy use area protection	Offsite watering
Filter strips	Waste Utilization
Spring water development	Waste Storage System
Irrigation systems	Nutrient Management
Pasture and Hayland Planting	Planned Grazing System
Livestock Watering Facility	Pasture and Hayland Management

Table 10. Treatment Unit 5---CAFO/AFO

Waste Management System	Heavy use area protection
Filter strips	Livestock Watering Facility
Nutrient Management	Fencing

7.1 Example Description of Alternatives for Surface Irrigated Cropland

Procedure: Conduct Resource Inventory and Site Assessment, Evaluate Data to Develop Site Specific BMP Alternatives.

SITE SPECIFIC BMP Alternative #1 ($800/ acre)	**SITE SPECIFIC BMP Alternative #2 ($500/ acre)**	**SITE SPECIFIC BMP Alternative #3 ($250/ acre)**
Irrigation Water Mgt.	Irrigation Water Mgt.	Irrigation Water Mgt.
Sprinkler Irrigation System	Land Leveling	Concrete Ditch
Nutrient Mgt.	Surface Irrigation System	Filter Strip
Conservation Crop Rotation	Gated Pipe	PAM
	Tail Water Recovery System	Sediment Basin
	Nutrient Mgt.	Nutrient Mgt.
	Conservation Crop Rotation	Conservation Crop Rotation
	Conservation Tillage	Conservation Tillage

EVEN ← MAINTENANCE → EVEN
HIGH ← RELATIVE COST → LOW
IMMEDIATE ← TIME TO MEET WATER QUALITY GOALS → EXTENDED
LOWER LABOR ← ASSOCIATED BENEFITS → HIGHER LABOR

↓

ALTERNATIVE SELECTED BY <u>LANDOWNER</u> BASED ON OBJECTIVES AND CAPABILITIES

↓

FINAL DESIGN OF BMP

↓

BMP INSTALLED

↓

FEEDBACK LOOP – IMPLEMENTATION AND EVALUATION MONITORING

↓

IF WATER QUALITY GOALS NOT MET – ADJUST BMP TO MEET WATER QUALITY GOALS

(APAP, 1991)

7.2 Example Description of Alternatives for Surface Irrigated Pasture

Procedure: Conduct Resource Inventory and Site Assessment, Evaluate Data to Develop Site Specific BMP Alternatives.

SITE SPECIFIC BMP Alternative #1 ($450/ acre)	**SITE SPECIFIC BMP Alternative #2 ($350/ acre)**	**SITE SPECIFIC BMP Alternative #3 ($250/ acre)**
Fencing	Fencing	Fencing
Planned Grazing System	Planned Grazing System	Pasture & Hayland Mgt.
Pasture & Hayland Mgt.	Pasture & Hayland Mgt.	Nutrient Mgt.
Nutrient Mgt.	Nutrient Mgt.	Livestock Watering Facility
Heavy Use Area Protection	Livestock Watering Facility	Irrigation Water Mgt.
Livestock Watering Facility	Irrigation Water Mgt.	Field Border Irrigation System
Irrigation Water Mgt.	Field Border Irrigation System	
Field Border Irrigation System		
Gated Pipe		

7.3 Example Description of Alternatives for CAFO/AFO

Procedure: Conduct Resource Inventory and Site Assessment, Evaluate Data to Develop Site Specific BMP Alternatives.

SITE SPECIFIC BMP Alternative #1 ($50,000/ each)	**SITE SPECIFIC BMP Alternative #2 ($35,000/ each)**	**SITE SPECIFIC BMP Alternative #3 ($25,000/ each)**
Nutrient Mgt.	Waste Mgt. System	Waste Mgt. System
Heavy Use Area Protection	Nutrient Mgt.	Nutrient Mgt.
Livestock Watering Facility	Livestock Watering Facility	Filter strip
Filter strips	Filter strips	Heavy Use Area Protection
Waste Mgt. System	Heavy Use Area Protection	
Dike		

7.4 BMP Costs

Due to the variability in agriculture, these prices per acre are best professional judgement. With changes in technology, land ownership, crops, agricultural commodities, landuse, and public perception, these costs and acres will change.

Lower cost BMPs are usually temporary in nature and do not address underlying issues relating to irrigation systems and irrigation water management. The yearly maintenance and labor cost of Alternative 3 BMPs are higher than those for Alternative 1 BMPs.

7.5 Feedback Loop

The feedback loop a process to evaluation and refinement of BMPs. The feedback loop occurs in four steps:

1. The process begins by developing water quality criteria to protect the identified beneficial uses of the water resource.
2. The existing water quality as compared to the water quality criteria established in Step 1, is the basis for developing or modifying BMPs.
3. The BMP is implemented on-site and evaluated for technical adequacy of design and installation.
4. The effectiveness of the BMP in achieving the criteria established in Step 1 is evaluated by comparison to water quality monitoring data. If the established criteria are achieved, the BMP is adequate as designed, installed and maintained. If not, the BMP is modified and the process of the feedback loop continues.

Implementing the feedback loop to modify BMPs until water quality standards are met results in full voluntary compliance with the standards. (APAP, 1991)

8.0 Program of Implementation

Canyon Soil Conservation District selected land treatment through application of a combination of BMPs including improved irrigation systems, nutrient and sediment control systems, and management practices. Significant contribution by agricultural land users in the Dixie Subwatershed toward achieving the TMDL's objectives of protecting aquatic life and recreational uses of the Lower Boise River by reducing the discharge of sediments and bacteria from the Dixie Drain to the Lower Boise River.

8.1 Installation and Financing

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is the technical agency that will assist the Idaho Soil Conservation Commission (ISCC) and Canyon SCD in developing water quality plans and designs. BMPs will be installed according to standards and specifications contained in the NRCS Field Office Technical Guide. NRCS and ISCC will assist Canyon SCD with certification of installed BMPs, filing payment applications, completion of annual status reviews on contracts, annual development of an average cost list, and will provide any needed follow-up assistance such as that required for contract modification.

Each participant will be responsible for installing the BMPs scheduled within their contract as planned in the Conservation Plan. Any needed land rights, easements or permits necessary for construction and inspection will be the sole responsibility of the participant. Each participant will also be required to make their own arrangements for financing their share of installation costs.

Table 11. Estimated BMP Cost Summary for Treatment Unit 2, Tier 1 (Surface Irrigated Cropland—3,289 acres).

ALTERNATIVE		ACRES	TOTAL COSTS
Alternative 1	$800/AC	3289	$ 2,631,200
Alternative 2	$500/AC	3289	$ 1,644,500
Alternative 3	$250/AC	3289	$ 822,250

Table 12. Estimated BMP Cost Summary for Treatment Unit 2, Tier 2 (Surface Irrigated Cropland—4,917 acres).

ALTERNATIVE		ACRES	TOTAL COSTS
Alternative 1	$800/AC	4917	$ 3,933,600
Alternative 2	$500/AC	4917	$ 2,458,500
Alternative 3	$250/AC	4917	$ 1,229,250

Table 13. Estimated BMP Cost Summary for Treatment Unit 2, Tier 3 (Surface Irrigated Cropland—9,724 acres).

ALTERNATIVE		ACRES	TOTAL COSTS
Alternative 1	$800/AC	9724	$ 7,779,200
Alternative 2	$500/AC	9724	$ 4,862,000
Alternative 3	$250/AC	9724	$ 2,431,000

Table 14. Estimated BMP Cost Summary for Treatment Unit 3 (Surface Irrigated Pasture 4,829 acres).

ALTERNATIVE		ACRES	TOTAL COSTS
Alternative 1	$450/AC	4829	$ 2,173,050
Alternative 2	$350/AC	4829	$ 1,690,150
Alternative 3	$250/AC	4829	$ 1,207,250

Table 15. Estimated BMP Cost Summary for Treatment Unit 5 (CAFO/AFO 31 Units).

ALTERNATIVE		UNITS	TOTAL COSTS
Alternative 1	$50,000/each	31	$ 1,550,000
Alternative 2	$35,000/each	31	$ 1,085,000
Alternative 3	$25,000/each	31	$ 775,000

Canyon SCD has applied for funding of the selected alternative through the State Water Quality Program for Agriculture (WQPA) administered by the Idaho Soil Conservation Commission. Canyon SCD has received funding to treat 3000 acres of surface irrigated cropland. The project will run from 2000 through 2006.

8.2 Operation, Maintenance, and Replacement

Participants will be responsible for maintaining the installed BMPs for the life of their contract. The contract will outline the responsibility of the participant regarding operation and Maintenance (O&M) for each BMP. Technical assistance for BMPs will be provided by NRCS and ISCC.

Inspections of installed BMPs will be made on an annual basis by Canyon SCD, NRCS, ISCC, and the participant during the life of the contract. The intent is to develop a system of BMPs that will protect water quality and is socially and economically feasible to the participant. By accomplishing this objective, it is intended that the BMPs will become a part of the participant's farming operation and will continue to be operated and maintained after the contract expires.

8.3 Water Quality Monitoring

The ISDA collected water quality samples in Dixie Subwatershed for the year 2000. Most samples have been collected on a bimonthly basis throughout the irrigation season (April - October) and on a monthly basis throughout the rest of the year (winter). Data parameters measured thus far have included DO (dissolved oxygen), temperature, % saturation, conductivity, TDS (total dissolved solids) pH, discharge (cfs), TSS (total suspended solids), TVS (total volatile solids), nitrate/nitrite, TP (total phosphorus), OP (dissolved ortho-phosphorus), fecal coliform, and E-coli. U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) has been monitoring the major tributaries to the river at their mouths since 1993 and will continue until April 2000. Sampling frequency has been upgraded to bimonthly for the subwatershed starting in April of 1999, then sampled monthly through the winter period.

ISDA along with the SCC and the Idaho Association of Soil Conservation Districts (ISACD) will develop a water quality monitoring plan that will allow trend analysis of water quality and gauge progress toward meeting the TMDL load reductions. The proper time to revisit the subwatershed, for the evaluation of water quality improvements, will be decided through joint agency cooperation, data review, and BMP implementation evaluation. This could be based on a number of factors including percent of critical acres treated, number of major contributors treated or a specific time interval.

9.0 References

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